UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Copy to:

Report of: JAMES A. MARLEY, JR.
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Title: LEE HARVEY OSWALD

Character: INTERNAL SECURITY-R

Synopsis: NELSON DELGADO advised 12/13/63, that OSWALD excellent in Spanish. DELGADO did report his knowledge that OSWALD was receiving Russian newspapers to superior. Unable to recall names of two Negro Marines who went to Tijuana with them, but one might have been called WATTS. Both Negroes worked with Motor Pool at Santa Ana, Cal., Base. Persons who could corroborate DELGADO's statement set out.

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DETAILS:

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Newark F.O. Section 1

Do. December 16, 1963

S/F 4 NELSON DELGADO, Battery D, 4th Missle Battalion, 71st Artillery, Holmdel Site, Holmdel, New Jersey, advised that he recalled some additional facts.

DELGADO stated he was assigned to Quonset Hut Number 34 from the time he arrived at the Marine Base at Santa Ana, California, until he requested transfer to another hut in June, 1959.

DELGADO recalled he became friendly with OSWALD in December, 1958, when both were assigned to the same radar section and the same shift. At that time, DELGADO declared, he was very young, having only recently left school, and was somewhat of a "loner," as OSWALD was, with the result they became friendly. DELGADO stated he felt a little out of place because of his Puerto Rican background but found that OSWALD and he got along very well.

DELGADO advised that in January, 1959, OSWALD had been having some trouble in the Quonset Hut to which he had originally been assigned and had asked for a transfer. DELGADO was not sure but he thought it was because of his, DELGADO's, friendship that OSWALD was assigned to Hut Number 34. However the Hut did have three empty bunks at the time.

According to DELGADO, there were a total of six Marines in the hut during the time that he spent in it, one of whom was a Private First Class (PFC) WALD. In January, 1960, WALD was transferred to Atsuki, Japan, with the First Marine Air Control Squadron. However, WALD did not get along with OSWALD, but he would know of the OSWALD and DELGADO friendship.

OSWALD attempted to teach DELGADO certain phrases of Russian, which language OSWALD spoke fluently, but the best DELGADO could do was learn "Da" and "Nyet." DELGADO stated he never heard OSWALD called "Oswaldovitch," but he was called by many of the Marines on the base "Comrade" and he heard RICHARD CALL refer to him as "Commissar." It was DELGADO's opinion that these names were said in a joking manner because apparently most of the Marines knew of OSWALD's interest in Socialism.

On 12/13/63 at Holmdel, New Jersey File # Newark 105-15291

by SA JAMES A. MARLEY, JR. /eag Date dictated 12/13/63

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DELGADO said there were two Negro Marines in Hut Number 34 who were assigned to other duties who should know of his friendship with OSWALD, but he could not recall their names. He recalled one other Marine was also assigned to the Hut for a short period, but he did not know his name and did not believe he would have known OSWALD.

It was DELGADO's opinion that Sergeant W. FUNK would not know OSWALD well because he was only assigned to the base about four to six weeks prior to OSWALD leaving the area. FUNK was transferred to the Santa Ana Marine Base from Japan and most of the troops under him did not have much respect for him. He had a high pitched voice and did not know how to dress like a good Marine or operate a platoon well. Sergeant FUNK caught OSWALD "fooling around" in ranks on one occasion and reported him. OSWALD was made to walk around the field with full field pack and Sergeant FUNK put him through a Close Order Drill. Thereafter, OSWALD had nothing good to say about FUNK and at one time seriously thought of reporting the incident to the Inspector General, but he did not do so.

Start

Colonel JAMES BOTTEHO was assigned to the Santa Ana Marine Base at approximately the same time that DELGADO was, but was not in the same hut with OSWALD. He did work on the same shift with OSWALD and DELGADO. BOTTEHO did not associate with OSWALD and had little to do with him. DELGADO did recall on one occasion BOTTEHO had a "big" argument with OSWALD over Socialism and OSWALD left in disgust.

DELGADO advised that speaking generally as far as PFC RUSSELL and BOTTEHO were concerned, they did not have much in common with OSWALD because they were interested in sports and girls and these things hardly interested OSWALD.

Sergeant CALL was assigned to the same platoon but was not assigned in the same Quonset area as the subject. However, CALL and OSWALD did get along and on one occasion OSWALD discussed his book "Das Capital" with CALL. Further, CALL and OSWALD had in common the fact they both enjoyed classical music.

PFC H. RUSSELL, JR. was assigned to the Santa Ana Base about four to eight weeks prior to OSWALD leaving the base. He lived in the same Quonset Hut area, but not in Hut

Number 34 and was not on the same work shift with OSWALD. One of the things that was unusual about OSWALD, DELGADO noted, since RUSSELL was from New Orleans and so was OSWALD, there should have some conversation about this fact. However, there never was any interest shown in each other.

Another Marine, a PFC OSBORNE, was assigned to the same platoon during OSWALD's time and came from Texas. According to DELGADO, OSBORNE would discuss Texas with anyone at any time. Although OSWALD said that he came from Texas, he was not friendly with OSBORNE.

end

DELGADO could not recall the names of the two Negro Marines who went to Tijuana, Mexico, with himself and OSWALD. However, both were assigned to the Motor Pool while at the Santa Ana Base and he believes that one of them might have been a PFC WATTS. He did recall one of these Marines made another trip later to Tijuana, Mexico, along with PFC RUSSELL but without OSWALD.

DELGADO advised it was common knowledge among the Marines at the base that he, DELGADO, spoke Spanish and it was also fairly well known he was on record as saying he could teach Spanish to anyone really interested in learning Spanish in a short time. Therefore, many Marines were always asking him to give them certain phrases in Spanish, but OSWALD was one who asked him to teach him the language completely.

DELGADO stated shortly after he started to help OSWALD with Spanish it became apparent he was a good student. OSWALD secured a Spanish dictionary and studied all the time. DELGADO recalled they started to write Spanish phrases on note paper while working in "the silent" area. It was his opinion several hours each day were devoted to OSWALD's Spanish lessons so that in a short time he was able to speak and understand Spanish excellently. DELGADO noted he was not able to teach OSWALD to write Spanish because he himself was not able to write the language very well.

simple

well

When the conversation got around to OSWALD wanting to help the Cubans and other South Americans, DELGADO remembered using this as a method to make sure he understood the language. DELGADO pointed out that if he were ever going

to go to Cuba, he should know Spanish because he would not be able to get along in that country without it.

DELGADO never heard the subject speak or see him read a German paper or magazine. However, OSWALD used phrases that sounded like "Yiddish" to him. DELGADO later learned that these were German phrases and it was from this that he thought OSWALD spoke and understood German.

DELGADO stated his close relationship with OSWALD during this period was due to the fact that not only did he, DELGADO, feel that CASTRO was the right thing for Cuba, but also TRUJILLO must be removed from the Dominican Republic. These feelings were shared by both and therefore during one of these discussions, most of it by short phrases on the scratch papers in the Radar Section, DELGADO wrote down he himself would write to the Cuban Embassy, Washington, D.C., if he felt as sincerely as OSWALD about helping. Since the United States was supporting CASTRO at this time, DELGADO thought that this was the best thing to do.

He was surprised about four or five days later when OSWALD told him he had received a letter from the Cuban Consulate in Los Angeles, and from then on OSWALD received a letter or some sort of correspondence about once a week. It was not until several weeks later that DELGADO saw some of these letters. He had asked OSWALD for the loan of a tie and OSWALD told him it was in his locker. DELGADO recalled when he went to get the tie, he noticed the letters from the Cuban Consulate together with Russian newspapers and other mimeographed material which he assumed came from the Cuban Consulate. OSWALD was then going to Los Angeles about every two weeks and after one of these visits told DELGADO he had been at the Cuban Consulate. It was from this statement that DELGADO assumed that these weekly trips were to visit the Cuban Consulate in Los Angeles.

DELGADO advised he never thought OSWALD was a threat to the security of the United States nor did he think he was violating any security regulations of the United States Marine Corps. As a matter of fact he did report OSWALD was receiving a Russian language newspaper to Lieutenant DE PADRO, but he did not know what came of this. He noted DE PADRO is now residing in Coral Gables, Florida.

DELGADO declared any Marine assigned to the Santa Ana Base from December, 1958, to about June, 1959, should be able ~~to~~ verify the fact he and OSWALD were friendly. In addition, Sergeant LUSK, the Sergeant Major of the company, made the remark when he was disciplining DELGADO, that he was getting to be just like OSWALD who always did everything backwards.

PFC DAVID MURRAY was assigned to the same section with DELGADO and OSWALD and knew them both. DELGADO ~~started to teach~~ MURRAY Spanish while both were still in school at Biloxi, Mississippi, ~~and he continued to teach him Spanish while they were at the Santa Ana Base~~. He believed MURRAY should know that DELGADO taught OSWALD Spanish although he never heard MURRAY and OSWALD speak this language to each other.

Lieutenant Colonel TOSDAHL was the Commanding Officer of the Base at the time both OSWALD and DELGADO were stationed at Santa Ana. TOSDAHL was the kind of commanding officer who liked to know each Marine by his first name. DELGADO felt he should know of the association between himself and OSWALD.

DELGADO advised that on one or more occasions he and OSWALD discussed extradition treaties and DELGADO mentioned if he ever did anything wrong he would go to Argentina because he thought they would not extradite anyone. However, OSWALD said he should remember the two men who had recently defected to Russia. They had gone to Mexico, then to Cuba and on to Russia, according to OSWALD, and he would go the same way. At the time the newspapers did have the stories about this incident.

Toward the end of May, 1959, during their discussions they started to talk about the Dominican Republic. DELGADO stated he really felt something should be done to remove TRUJILLO. OSWALD must have thought he meant he wanted to do something personally and made some suggestions that both of them go to Cuba, become officers in CASTRO's army, and then go to the Dominican Republic and help bring freedom to this area. About this time because the newspapers were publishing stories about the shooting of one of CASTRO's corporals by CASTRO's men, DELGADO became disillusioned about CASTRO. It

also became apparent to DELGADO that OSWALD was talking more and more as though he intended to do some of the things he talked about. Therefore, the situation started to get "uncomfortable" for him with OSWALD and he asked Sergeant FUNK for a transfer to another barracks.